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SETH LOW SHOWS THE NATION'S NEED FOR PREPAREDNESS

Voices Plea at Opening Session of National Civic Federation.

TELLS WAY TO PREVENT EUROPE'S ANTAGONISMS

In Strength of Arms and Willingness to Die Lies America's Safety, He Says.

SAMUEL GOMPERS PRESIDES

Miss Wetmore, in Reporting for Woman's Department, Welcomes Any Plan for Defense Which Will Quicken the National Spirit.

Another strong plea for increased military preparedness for the United States, with the backing of a great and powerful organization representing capital, labor and the public of the country, was made today at the opening session of a two-day convention of the National Civic Federation at the New Willard Hotel.

The plea was voiced by Seth Low, president of the organization, who is the former mayor of New York and the former head of Columbia University, in the presence of a distinguished gathering of some of the most prominent men and women of the country, the latter being present to participate in what was a joint session of the main body of the federation and the woman's department of the organization. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, vice president of the federation, presided.

Wherein Lies Nation's Safety.

Mr. Low was cheered to the echo by all elements when he said:

"If the United States is to prevent the antagonisms and hates of Europe and its age-long traditions of empire from finding lodgment on this continent after the war, it must be by the strength of our own right arm and by the willingness to die for it. We cannot rely on the kindness of others and for what we believe to be no less precious to humanity."

Today's sessions of the convention, which took place at 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., were not intended to be devoted to the subject of military preparedness. That will come up in a special session of the organization tomorrow morning. But the subject of adequate defenses for the United States is largely engaging the attention of the members, and the woman's department intends to play a very large part in the discussion of this public question, having organized what is called "The Women's Section of the Movement for National Preparedness." The latter organization, which is affiliated with the entire woman's section of the federation, is composed of the same prominent women who are actively engaged in the work of the federation.

Today, however, many other important subjects came up for discussion at the convention sessions as the result of a series of reports presented. One of these was the report of Louis A. Coolidge of Boston, former assistant secretary of the United States Machine Company, who is chairman of the well-known department of the federation. He surprised his hearers by declaring that representative leaders of organized labor are opposed to the practice of profit-sharing between employer and employee. He said labor men believe that employers had profit-sharing useful to weaken and disrupt trade unions.

Wage Commission Recommendations

A. J. Porter, chairman of the minimum wage commission of the federation, recommended that the Department of Commerce and Labor make a joint investigation of the relation of labor to the location of industries and the effect of legislation on behalf of women and children on industries and workers. P. T. Cushman, chairman of the social insurance department, said that the higher wages of the United States with appropriate means to insure one's self is better than the low wage systems of Europe with compulsory insurance.

Thomas W. Shinton of Norfolk, Va., chairman of the uniform law committee of the American Bar Association, declared that if Congress assumes to direct the manner in which courts shall act that is equivalent to directing the result of the deliberations of the courts and maintained that judges ought to be selected by organizations of lawyers. Other reports included those on pension problems, industrial hygiene, changes in labor conditions and the growth of employers' welfare work.

Miss Maude Wetmore, in presenting the report of the woman's department, said:

"Any plan of military preparedness which makes the flag under which we live the emblem of our life, our all, and not a rag with which to protect the corpse from which the spirit has fled, I welcome."

She spoke of the work done by the District of Columbia Association of Women's Department of the federation in glowing terms. Reporting on the activities of the District section of women, Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, chairman of the section, described the work of the surgical dressings committee for relief in Europe, the school committee, working

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DEFEAT FOR TURKS IN NO CAMPAIGNS

Admit Having Retired Before New Russian Offensive in the Caucasus.

VICTORY ON THE TIGRIS IS CLAIMED BY BRITISH

Turkish Forces in Mesopotamia Said to Be in Retreat Toward Kut-el-Amara.

BERLIN, January 17, by wireless to Sayville.—After delaying for a week the advance of strong Russian forces in the Caucasus, the Turks have withdrawn their advanced posts several miles at some points, according to the Turkish official statement of today, received here from Constantinople.

Turks Admit Retirement.

"In the Caucasus the Russians repeated their attacks against Turkish positions on both banks of the Aras, suffering heavy losses, especially in the district between the Aras and the Ind valley. Here Turkish advanced posts retired some kilometers, after having delayed strong enemy forces for one week."

Regarding Operations in Mesopotamia the Statement Says:

"There has been intermittent artillery fire near Kut-el-Amara."

Defeated in Mesopotamia.

LONDON, January 17, 3:23 p.m.—Announcement was made in the house of commons today that the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia have fallen back to within six miles of Kut-el-Amara.

The announcement was made by J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, who said the Turks had retreated six miles from the British position. The Turkish positions at Waddi, he said, were carried Saturday by the British.

Approved by War Council.

The recent operations in Mesopotamia, including the advance to Ctesiphon, were considered and approved by the war council, said Mr. Chamberlain.

"It would not be in the public interest that I should make any statement on the scope of the operations now in progress. Information of that kind, in the present circumstances, would be far more valuable to the enemy than to the house."

Fighting Is Continuous.

"There was continuous fighting on the 15th in the neighborhood, and on the morning of the 16th Gen. Aylmer reported that the enemy was again retreating. The subject of adequate defenses for the United States is largely engaging the attention of the members, and the woman's department intends to play a very large part in the discussion of this public question, having organized what is called 'The Women's Section of the Movement for National Preparedness.'"

"Gen. Aylmer reports that the operations were seriously hampered throughout what is called 'The Women's Section of the Movement for National Preparedness.' The latter organization, which is affiliated with the entire woman's section of the federation, is composed of the same prominent women who are actively engaged in the work of the federation."

Pressing the Turks Hard.

This is the second defeat for the Turks in Mesopotamia in the last few days, as given in British official reports. It was announced in London yesterday that the Turks had been beaten at Oran, on the Tigris, twenty-five miles below Kut-el-Amara, and were in retreat.

An attack is being made by the army of Gen. Aylmer, which is advancing in an attempt to form a junction with the original British expedition under the command of Gen. Townshend, which is now at Kut-el-Amara. The attack is reported to have been successful, and the British are now in possession of the town.

ENDS THIRTY-DAY FAST, DRINKING MALTED MILK

J. Ray Adams Says He Is Feeling Fine—Loses Only About Ten Pounds in Weight.

After thirty days of fasting, J. Ray Adams, clerk of the Senate committee on the United States flag, today took a glass of malted milk. He plans to increase his food gradually, fearing that he suddenly began eating regular meals again after his long abstinence from food, the old trouble from which he suffered on and off since he undertook to fast might return.

Mr. Adams took no food whatever during the thirty days, but every morning drank a large glass of hot water. Mr. Adams said today that he was feeling fine, and he looked it. He lost some ten pounds or more weight on account of his abstinence from food, he says, but expects to regain this weight soon.

An remarkable feature of Mr. Adams' fast was that it did not prevent him from attending to his regular work from taking a certain amount of exercise daily.

Belgian Steamer Afire at Sea.

FOR STANDARDIZING PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Representative Clark Urges Adoption of Omnibus Bill This Session.

SUPERVISING ARCHITECT'S METHODS ARE ATTACKED

Office Is Five Years Behind in Its Work, He Tells the House of Representatives.

An attack on the office of the supervising architect of the Treasury and the general manner of treating the question of public buildings by the executive departments was made in the House today, when Representative Clark of Florida, chairman of the public buildings and grounds committee, delivered a speech in favor of an omnibus building bill this session. Representative Clark also denied vigorously that the committee is a pork barrel affair, and challenged any one to prove to the contrary. Wastefulness in public building bills he laid at the door of republican committees, and recommended that a standardized type of buildings be used all over the country so as to help the supervising architect to catch up to his work.

Mr. Clark's Address.

Representative Clark said, in part: "Congress in every item of every general public building bill has left the cost in the discretion of the Treasury Department. We have never enacted that a specific sum of money should be expended in the construction of a government building in a particular case, but in each and every case we have fixed the maximum of cost beyond which the Treasury Department could not go. For instance, where we provided for a building at a given place with an authorization of \$100,000 we have always said that the Treasury Department must not exceed that sum. It is not the limit of cost, and if in such case the department in its discretion felt that a fifty-thousand-dollar building would answer the purpose there has never been anything to hinder the construction of a cheaper building. If, therefore, magnificent, monumental buildings have been erected, it is not because of the generosity of Congress, but because of the extravagance of the department. It is not the limit of cost, and if in such case the department in its discretion felt that a fifty-thousand-dollar building would answer the purpose there has never been anything to hinder the construction of a cheaper building. If, therefore, magnificent, monumental buildings have been erected, it is not because of the generosity of Congress, but because of the extravagance of the department."

Two Changes Necessary.

"Mr. Speaker, I have given a good deal of thought to this question and I believe that two things are absolutely necessary to be done in order to accomplish the desired result. "First, I believe it is absolutely necessary to reorganize the office of the supervising architect and place at the head of it a first-class architect who is also a practical, common-sense man of good executive ability. I admit that this combination is hard to find, as most good architects are, as a rule, impractical, visionary dreamers, but to the requirement, and I have in mind now a gentleman who, in my judgment, will fully meet the requirements in this particular case."

"Nullify Acts of Congress."

"I want to say right here that this practice of executive departments is nullifying acts of Congress has been growing to such proportions and has been so long and persistently practiced that the departmental veto has come to be recognized as a legitimate governmental function. Congress is no longer the supreme power in matters of legislation. We, the chosen representatives of the people, selected by popular vote every two years, charged with the duty of writing into the law of the land the will of the people, are being nullified by the executive departments. We have tamely submitted to executive encroachment for so long; we have for

"I am fully aware that both climate and the topography of the country are to be considered, but from the first floor up a standard type can be used, no matter what the lay of the land or climatic conditions. This is the plan of the republic, sit supinely by while mere appointees of the executive sit aside and declare null and void our most solemn enactments. We have tamely submitted to executive encroachment for so long; we have for

Department Store Advertising

During the year 1915 the seven large department stores in Washington used 6,228,751 lines of advertising space to tell their shopping news.

These stores have built their great businesses by this policy of information. They know from long experience how to get direct results and naturally use publicity in proportion to the return from the expenditure in each instance.

LAST YEAR'S ADVERTISING Seven Department Stores

The Evening and Sunday Star	3,147,963
2d Daily and Sunday Newspaper	1,270,055
3d Daily and Sunday Newspaper	1,216,421
4th Daily and Sunday Newspaper	594,312
	3,080,788

The Star printed more advertising of these great department stores by 67,175 lines than all the other Washington newspapers combined.



MAKING THE WAR BONNET.

TO CONSULT MR. WILSON ON THE DISTRICT BILL

House Subcommittee Likely to Refer Matters Affecting Executive Functions.

It became known today that the President may be consulted by members of the subcommittee in charge of the District appropriation bill concerning matters which are likely to be inserted in the measure before it is reported to the House. The President, in his capacity as "mayor of Washington," may be asked to express his wishes on some of the proposals which affect, directly or indirectly, some function of the executive branch of the government.

One of the most likely is the recommendation of the Commissioners to make a change in the manner of appointing the recorder of deeds so that the appointment will be made by the Commissioners instead of by the President.

Representative Howard Approves.

The subcommittee has not touched upon this particular section of the bill, except to read it at the hearing. Representative Howard of Georgia, at the time the bill was being read, expressed his opinion that he believed it would be a wise move, provided the President has no objection.

It is understood since that time the subcommittee has not considered this item, and it is expected that Chairman Page will consult the President before any report is made to the full appropriations committee. Representatives in Congress have heard that the President is anxious to rid himself of the appointment.

TO SERVE PAPERS IN SUIT AGAINST JOSEPH LEITER

Officers Represent Owner in Proceedings to Recover Possession of Chartered Houseboat.

NEW ORLEANS, January 17.—Deputy United States marshals today were reported to have arrived at Cubits gap, ninety miles down the Mississippi, to serve upon Joseph Leiter, Chicago millionaire, papers in a suit filed here by Garrett E. Lamb, Clinton, Iowa, millionaire, to recover Mr. Leiter's houseboat, the Summer Girl, from Mr. Leiter.

Mr. Leiter, with a party of friends, left here last Tuesday for the Delta country to hunt and fish, having chartered the houseboat from Lamb. Friday the houseboat's captain and crew returned here from Orange farm, sixty miles south, and reported Mr. Leiter discharged them because the captain refused to continue the trip Thursday night during a high wind.

REPRESENTATIVE CROSSER REINTRODUCES HIS BILL

Provides for Municipal Ownership and Operation of Street Railways in District.

Representative Crosser today reintroduced his bill for the municipal ownership and operation of the street railways of the District of Columbia. The bill is in exactly the same form as it was originally introduced by Mr. Crosser March 30, 1914. However, Mr. Crosser has in mind several minor changes for the bill, and he believes these can be effected in committee. The bill provides that a proceeding

SUPREME COURT OF U. S. HAS UNIQUE SITUATION

Not Qualified Today to Hear Argument in Government Cases, First Time in Decade.

For the first time in a decade or more, the Supreme Court of the United States was not qualified today to hear argument in government cases. Only five members were both present and eligible to sit in such cases, and the law requires six at least shall consider each case before it.

Chief Justice White, for the first time since he was promoted to the head of the court, was unable to preside on a decision day. He was confined to his home with a cold. Justice McKenna, senior associate justice, presided.

Report From Board Not In.

The board of investigation in session at the New York yard examining the E-2 had not reported to the Navy Department today, and no further information concerning the explosion had reached officials here. Rear Admiral Usher, commander of the yard, however, is expected to send a preliminary survey of the findings to Secretary Daniels either today or tomorrow.

GERMANY IS TO AVENGE "MISDEED" BY BARALONG

BERLIN, January 17, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—Announcement was made in the reichstag today by Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, undersecretary for foreign affairs, that the German government would "most certainly find ways and means of getting satisfaction for the shocking misdeed" attributed to the crew of the British patrol boat Baralong, which is charged with having killed defenseless Germans from a submarine sunk by the patrol boat.

GERMAN EMPEROR, CURED, RETURNS TO THE FRONT

BERLIN, January 16, via London, January 17.—The following official communication was issued today:

"After his complete recovery, Emperor William returned Sunday afternoon to the war theater."

TO REDUCE GASOLINE PRICE.

Representative Johnson's Bill Provides Prohibitive Tax.

A bill intended to reduce the price of gasoline was introduced today by Representative Johnson of Kentucky.

It proposes that whenever the first vendor sells a gallon of gasoline at a price as high as 15 cents a gallon he shall pay a tax of \$1 for each gallon, and an additional tax of a dollar a gallon for each cent above that figure.

THINK DISASTER DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES

Officials Inquiring Into E-2 Explosion Reported to Have Reached Conclusion.

NO CREDENCE IN RUMOR OF OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Edison's Engineer Confident Batteries Were Not Responsible—Secretary Daniels' New Rule.

NEW YORK, January 17.—Officials conducting the two inquiries—civil and naval—into the cause of the internal explosion Saturday on the submarine E-2 at the New York navy yard, which caused the death of four men and serious injuries to ten others, were convinced today, it was learned at the yard, that the accident was due entirely to natural causes. They were giving no consideration to the suggestion that outside agencies might have been responsible, it was said.

Three Men in Critical Condition.

Three of the six enlisted men who were injured were still in a critical condition today at the Naval Hospital. The four civilians in a city hospital were sufficiently recovered to be questioned by Coroner Wagner. Three of them told the coroner they were suffering from colds last Saturday, and were therefore unable to detect the possible presence of gas within the hull. The fourth man, however, said that he smelled only the usual odor of gas and oil previous to the explosion.

Statement by Reese Hutchinson.

A statement, declaring that the new Edison storage battery could not in any way have been responsible for the explosion has been made by Miller Reese Hutchinson, chief engineer for Thomas A. Edison, and a member of the naval consulting board.

The statement also says: "As to the Edison battery, with all the facts and conditions before me, I see no reason to recommend to Mr. Edison any changes or alterations in the construction of the battery. The installation of the Edison submarine-type storage battery. The battery in the E-2 does not appear to have been injured in the least."

The preliminary inquiry into the explosion was held in secret yesterday by the board of inquiry appointed by Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, commander of the navy yard. Neither Admiral Usher nor any of those present would discuss what occurred at the inquiry. Persons on board or near the battery at the time of the explosion were questioned at length, however.

Rear Admiral Usher made the following formal statement last night: "The board of inquiry met today and went aboard the submarine, where they conducted a thorough investigation. The investigation was not finished and therefore the board will again meet tomorrow. No conclusion was reached."

More Thorough Inspection Ordered.

Batteries, engines and other vital parts of submarines hereafter will be tested more thoroughly in laboratories before they are placed aboard the underwater boats. That policy, announced by Secretary of Navy Daniels today, will be inaugurated with a view of preventing, as far as possible, the recurrence of such an explosion as that which destroyed the submarine E-2, in the New York yard Saturday.

"The battery of the E-2," Mr. Daniels said, "was placed aboard the vessel as a second battery. It was not intended to be used, and it was not intended to be tested. The vessel was prepared especially for the purpose of testing the first battery. It was not intended to be tested."

Report From Board Not In.

The board of investigation in session at the New York yard examining the E-2 had not reported to the Navy Department today, and no further information concerning the explosion had reached officials here. Rear Admiral Usher, commander of the yard, however, is expected to send a preliminary survey of the findings to Secretary Daniels either today or tomorrow.

SPANISH STEAMER SUNK; LOSS OF LIFE INDICATED

LONDON, January 17.—The Spanish steamer Belgica has been sunk. Twenty-three members of the crew were saved.

The last mention of the Belgica in available maritime records notes her arrival December 12, at Heysham, England, from Sagunto, Spain. The steamer was chartered by the Spanish government and was carrying a cargo of coal.

British Guns Bombard Lille.

BERLIN, January 17, via London, January 17.—British artillery is bombarding the important French town of Lille, near the Belgian border and inside the German lines, but so far the shells have caused only slight damage to the place, the German headquarters announced today.

Austrians Capture Italian Trench.

BERLIN, January 17, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—Hungarian troops took an Italian trench near Tolmino Saturday, according to an official statement issued by the Austro-Hungarian headquarters. The Austrian statement added that Italian artillery activity was increased Saturday at Mount San Michele and against the Tolmino-Gorizia and Mislivh bridgeheads.

Preparing Data for Senate.

Preparation by State Department officials of data for the Senate regarding the de facto government in Mexico, and receipt of renewed assurances from Gen. Carranza that he would make

NEUTRAL ZONE IN MEXICO PROPOSED BY SENATOR GORE

Would Have Territory Policed by Governments of Both Nations.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES TREATY WITH CARRANZA

Oklahoman Says Action Is Necessary Unless Disorders South of Rio Grande End Soon.

OPPOSITION TO INTERVENTION

Mr. Thomas Tells Senate Whole Trouble Is Due to Commercial Rivalry of Foreign Concerns That Are Backing Agitation.

Establishment of a neutral zone in northern Mexico, to be jointly policed by the governments of Mexico and the United States unless Mexican disorder is speedily controlled, is proposed in a resolution introduced today by Senator Gore, democrat, of Oklahoma.

The resolution, referred to the foreign relations committee, would authorize the President of the United States to enter into an agreement with Gen. Carranza as first chief of the de facto government of Mexico, under which order would be restored and life rendered secure in that portion of the republic adjacent to the United States. There was no discussion of the resolution in the Senate.

Opposes Intervention Now.

Senator Thomas of Colorado said today, concerning the Mexican situation: "I do not believe in armed intervention in Mexican affairs so long as it can be avoided consistently with the nation's duty to itself and its obligations as the exponent of the Monroe doctrine. The soundness of this view is obvious. The trouble in Mexico is, however, specific reasons to sustain it. The first and most important is the occupation of the country. I make this assertion from my knowledge of the Mexican character and the Mexican country."

The duty which we assumed when we intervened for the Philippines is a modest one compared with that arising from Mexican intervention. It is the right of the Mexican people to settle their own troubles in their own way. They have a right to govern themselves, and that right of self-government is a political right of self-determination. Merely because the latter prevails we have no right of interference. We have no business with the Latin peoples to the south of the United States, now happily separated from us by a vast part of our policy regarding Mexico."

The Real Beneficiaries.

"Last, but by no means least, is the fact that the commercial rivals, largely responsible for Mexico's unhappy condition, in my opinion, bring strong force for intervention for years. And these will be the principal beneficiaries of a war the cost of which in the expenditure of blood and treasure will be enormous."

"Mexican intervention when it does occur will be no holiday affair. It is a country containing 15,000,000 population, and to war by the experience of four years and a comparatively small square miles of territory, including an enormous stretch of seaboard, can neither be conquered nor pacified without long and strenuous effort."

"Of course, these considerations should not deter us from taking action when to do so becomes imperative. The concrete situation is critical because of the tragedy of last Wednesday, the horror of which has naturally stirred the blood and aroused the indignation of the people. I sympathize with and in some degree share in the impulse to move on Mexico at once. But it is obvious that the movement of passion is not one for wise or intelligent action. We must remember that Italy, Japan and China have been similarly stirred by occurrences in America, and very sensibly reflected that they could not justify war. It is true that Mexico does not have a government, nevertheless, whose head should be required and then given opportunity to punish the murderers and make reparation."

"When Carranza falls or becomes unable to do this, intervention will be necessary. We can and must give him this opportunity or establish a precedent which may return to plague us in the near future."

Americans Being Concentrated.

Concentration of Americans at Torreon, Monterrey and other points where Carranza troops are active, according to a de facto government in Mexico, was reported to the State Department today by Consul General Hanna, at Monterrey. He said sixty Americans and others employed at the Penoles Mining Company, near Maricao, north of Torreon, had arrived safely at Monterrey. With them were a few from Asarco. Americans who have been on the property of the Tiahuatlan plantation in the Laguna district, are at Torreon and Lerdo, a suburb.

Mr. Hanna notified the department of the dispatch of Carranza reinforcements from Monterrey to Torreon, adding that "the Carranza government is earnest in efforts to improve conditions and to prevent further assault on Americans. Good order here is maintained."

Preparing Data for Senate.

Preparation by State Department officials of data for the Senate regarding the de facto government in Mexico, and receipt of renewed assurances from Gen. Carranza that he would make